

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of securing collateral for a loan when indicated by a loan status wherein the collateral comprises a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) installing a transmitter within the vehicle, the transmitter being capable of transmitting locational data regarding the vehicle;

(b) monitoring the loan status for a default condition;

10 (c) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the transmitter of the vehicle upon an occurrence of the default condition in the loan status;

15 (d) transmitting locational data from the transmitter of the vehicle to the base terminal via the data link;

(e) determining the location of the vehicle from the locational data transmitted to the base terminal; and

20 (f) confiscating the vehicle.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

25 (1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a transmit request signal; and

step (c) further comprises the steps of:

30 (1) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the base communication receiver upon an occurrence of the default condition in the loan status; and

(2) receiving a transmit request signal from the base terminal with the base communication receiver via the data link.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein step (c) further
5 comprising the steps of:

- (1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the base communication receiver at predetermined intervals prior to any occurrence of a default condition; and
- 10 (2) transmitting locational data from the transmitter to the base terminal via the data link to verify the operation of the base communication receiver.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (c) further
15 comprising the steps of:

- (1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the transmitter at predetermined intervals prior to any occurrence of a default condition; and
- (2) transmitting locational data from the
20 transmitter to the base terminal via the data link to verify the operation of the transmitter.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein step (c) further comprising the step of:

- (3) receiving the locational data at the base
25 terminal and storing the locational data.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (b) further comprising the step of:

- (1) monitoring the loan status for a delinquent condition; and
- 30 step (c) further comprising the step of:
 - (1) establishing a data link from a base terminal to the transmitter of the vehicle upon an

occurrence of the delinquent condition in the loan status.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the transmitter is capable of sensing any physical tampering therewith and transmitting a tamper signal in response to any sensed tampering, step (c) further comprises the step of:

(1) establishing the data link from the base terminal to the transmitter upon the sensing of any physical tampering with the transmitter.

10 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprising the step of:

(1) powering the transmitter with a rechargeable battery.

15 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the vehicle having an alarm, step (a) further comprises the step of:

(1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a vehicle alarm signal; and step (d) further comprises the step of:

20 (1) transmitting a vehicle alarm signal from the base terminal to the base communication receiver via the data link;

(2) receiving the vehicle alarm signal with the base communication receiver; and

25 (3) enabling the vehicle alarm.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

30 (1) installing a base communication receiver within the vehicle, the base communication receiver being capable of receiving a vehicle deactivation signal; and

step (d) further comprises the step of:

(1) transmitting a deactivation signal from the base terminal to the base communication receiver via the data link;

5 (2) receiving the deactivation signal with the base communication receiver; and

(3) deactivating the vehicle.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

10 (1) installing a GPS positioning signal receiver;

step (c) further comprises the steps of:

15 (1) establishing a data link from a global positioning satellite (GPS) to the GPS positioning signal receiver; and

(2) receiving a GPS positioning signal; and

wherein the transmitted locational data being based upon the received GPS positioning signal.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein the transmitter is
20 a cellular phone.

13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the base terminal is mobile.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein step (e) further comprising the step of:

25 (1) moving the base terminal to determine the location of the vehicle.

15. The method of Claim 1 wherein the installing of the transmitter is effectuated during the vehicle manufacturing process.

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